

Grattan Puxon
1 John Harper Street
Colchester
Essex CO1 1RP
01206 523 528

ustiben.4@ntlworld.com

Susan De Val
Head of Legal Services
Chelmsford Borough Council

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RE: MEADOWLANDS, CRANHAM ROAD, LITTLE WALTHAM

Dear Ms De Val,

The Oxford Dictionary definition of notorious is, in the first instance, simply "known and talked of".

The Roma Network, as its name implies, carries reports and information for the Roma community, and my reports, including that naming Mrs Lyons, are for that audience. Indeed, many are in the Romani language and read exclusively by Roma.

So when I used the phrase "notorious for her anti-Gypsy activity" I was writing from the point of view of the Roma community and for a Roma audience.

And I can assure you, and you might well concede, that Mrs Lyons is talked of in this way by the community at Dale Farm, Oak Lane, Basildon, and by the people until recently living at Meadowlands. Outside the Roma and Traveller communities, her activities may well be applauded, I concede that.

In response to your letter, however, I will refrain from future reference to her personally in my reporting.

Yours sincerely,

Grattan Puxon
Secretary
Trans-European Roma Federation